

Believe.

Barnardos Australia Annual Newsletter

Thank you!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of our supporters. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we raised an astounding **\$7,849,949** last financial year.

This vital funding has allowed us to provide essential care and support to the children and families who rely on our services. In these challenging times, when many are facing cost-of-living pressures, your unwavering kindness has made a profound difference in our community.

Together, we are creating a brighter future for those in need. Thank you for being such an important part of our mission!



Your FY 23-24 impact at a glance:

14,494

children, young people and families supported by Barnardos last year



56

children were safely restored to family



22

children found homes through open adoption



3,818

children, young people, and families received referrals and information



878

parents and carers completed parenting programs



686

children, young people, and families in supported housing



1,068

children in early learning and education programs



1,880

young people supported in our youth programs

An update on Daisy*

When we first met baby Daisy, her condition was truly heartbreaking. She was severely undernourished, dangerously underweight, and had multiple broken bones along with a suspected brain injury. What struck us most deeply though, was the silence. Daisy never cried, as if she had given up on the hope that her basic needs would be met.

Thanks to your extraordinary generosity, we were able to give Daisy the urgent medical care and nutrition she desperately needed. She was placed with Christina*, one of our devoted carers, who immediately began showering Daisy with the love and attention she deserved.

Today, we are thrilled to share that Daisy is making incredible progress. She's gaining weight, her bones are healing, and most profoundly, she has started to cry. It's a small, yet powerful sign that Daisy is growing stronger and beginning to heal emotionally. Your kindness has given Daisy a second chance at life. While she's still with Christina for now, we are working hard to find her a permanent and secure home through adoption.

In the meantime, we are ensuring that Daisy receives all the therapies and care she needs to overcome the trauma of her early days. Your support has not only saved Daisy's life, but it's also helping to break a cycle of abuse that has haunted her family for generations. We are also



Daisy*

providing vital counselling for Daisy's mother, Leila*, to help her heal from her own past trauma.

Thank you for being the champion Daisy and so many vulnerable children need. Your unwavering support is changing lives and giving these innocent children the chance to grow up safe and full of hope for the future.

Feeding our community with hope



The Auburn Children's Family Centre of Barnardos has launched The Food Pantry Project in response to cost-of-living pressures affecting families in Greater Western Sydney.

This initiative, supported by a \$15,000 grant from DOOLEYS Lidcombe Catholic Club and a \$5,000 donation from Tara Anglican School for Girls, has enabled Barnardos to create a storage room for food and essential items to be provided to families in need.

Since March 2024, the project has provided over 700 essential food packs to vulnerable families,

demonstrating the high demand for support. Partnerships with OzHarvest, Aldi, and Costco ensure a steady supply of goods.

The pantry serves as an entry point for families in need, offering a safe environment to discuss hardships and access additional services. Looking ahead, the project aims to expand by increasing its volunteer base, strengthening partnerships with local businesses, and enhancing client support services. These efforts will include job training, healthcare access, and Centrelink programs, providing a pathway to a brighter future for local families in crisis.

* Names changed and models used for illustrative purposes to protect privacy.

Danielle's** story

Danielle, a single mother of six, faced unimaginable challenges just three years ago when she was on the brink of homelessness.

After separating from her partner, she moved into a run-down rental property that quickly became a nightmare. Struggling with mice infestations and dangerous broken windows and walls, Danielle fought to keep her children safe. When a concerned neighbour contacted the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), they immediately stepped in.

They recognised the immense strength Danielle had shown despite the dire circumstances and referred her family to the team at Barnardos Mudgee. With the help of Barnardos, Danielle and her children were placed in a four-bedroom transitional home through the Specialist Homelessness Service.

Unexpectedly, just as they began to feel settled the landlord sold the property, leaving them vulnerable once again. Caring for a child with a disability and a support dog, Danielle's search for a safe, stable home felt endless. But Barnardos never gave up on her. Through relentless effort, they eventually secured another transitional home,

and then, against all odds, a permanent four-bedroom private rental for Danielle and her children.

Over the past three years, Danielle's life has transformed. She remarried, found stable employment, and purchased a new car - proof of her incredible resilience and the stability Barnardos helped provide. Danielle credits Barnardos for not only preventing her family from becoming homeless, but for giving her children the chance to grow and thrive in a safe and secure home.



Stock image. Models used for illustrative purposes to protect privacy.

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Our commitment to sustainability



A key initiative in this effort has been the installation of solar panels across several facilities. The Ultimo Head Office now boasts solar panels, thanks to a partnership with Pingala Community Energy and a grant from the City of Sydney.

Similarly, the Penrith Children's Family Centre and the South Coast Children's Family Centre have also been equipped with solar panels, funded through the COREM and CORENA revolving funds respectively. These solar installations not only reduce the carbon footprint that Barnardos produces but also significantly lowers energy costs.

Aligning with the Towards 2025 Strategic Directions, Barnardos is actively working to enhance services and operations in ethical and sustainable ways.

Beyond infrastructure improvements, Barnardos has implemented various educational programs to foster environmental awareness among the children they serve.

At the Yurungai Learning Centre, children engaged in hands-on learning about solar energy, even constructing solar-powered robots and crafting a Dreamtime story about the sun.

The Penrith and South Coast centres have also introduced kitchen gardens, providing children and families with practical lessons in sustainable living and healthy food choices. These initiatives, along with their recycling and waste reduction efforts, which earned them a CitySwitch Champion Award, collectively contribute to Barnardos' goal of decarbonisation. By integrating resilience and sustainability into their core operations, Barnardos is actively working towards creating a brighter, more livable future for generations to come.

Paying it forward

Robert Callant remains eternally grateful to Barnardos for the care and support he received as a young child - so he is "paying it forward" by leaving a gift in his Will.

After being given a positive start to life by Barnardo's in the UK, Robert moved from England to Australia at 16 years old. He has since spent the rest of his life here where he married, had three children, a successful career, and is now happily retired.

Robert shares his reflections on his time living in the care of Barnardo's at the Village Home, Barkingside, Essex in the 1960s. His story is one of inspiration and testament to the work we do to create a brighter future for Australian children.

"Each of the 12 children in the "cottage" was allocated daily chores. My first assigned task was polishing the brass knobs on all the doors of the house. It made me feel a worthy and esteemed contributor to the running of the household - and I felt valued for the first time in my life.

My recollection of those years was that I had a place with Barnardo's where my welfare was always a priority. The love shown to me by Aunt Rosemary during my years spent at the cottage has always been deeply felt.

I believe that she was the embodiment of the philosophy practiced by Dr Thomas Barnardo; where every child was received with compassion and love, no matter what their circumstance. I look back at my time with Barnardo's with deep affection and gratitude.

Today, I see Barnardos Australia continuing to do the work envisaged by Dr Barnardo and I have been a proud financial contributor to the work they do for many years. As I look beyond the present time, I have decided to include a gift to Barnardos Australia in my Will. In some small way, I hope this gift will help another lost and bewildered little boy or girl; such that they too can have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential through life."



Robert Callant at Barkingside Village

For enquiries or donations
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